

## **US Youth Soccer National Directors of Coaching**

### **Region I**

Connecticut Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, TBA
Delaware Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Lew Atkinson
Eastern New York Youth Soccer Assoc.	Director of Coaching, Alfonso Mondello
Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Assoc.	Director of Coaching, Mike Barr
SoccerMaine	Director of Coaching, Andy Biggs
Maryland Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Graham Ramsey
Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Dean Conway
New Hampshire Youth Soccer Association	ODP Coach, Ian Torney Competitive Coach, Jorge Pardo
New Jersey Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Rick Meana
New York West Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Glen Buckley
Pennsylvania West State Soccer Assoc.	Director of Coaching, Chris Brown
Soccer Rhode Island	Director of Coaching, Ed Bradley
Vermont Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Dave Saward
Virginia Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Gordon Miller Coaching Director, Gary Allen
West Virginia Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Bob Gray

### **Region II**

Illinois Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Ian Mulliner
Indiana Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Dan Kapsalis Boys ODP, George Perry Girls ODP, John Carter
Iowa Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Ian Bradley Ass't Dir. of Coaching, Serge Lipovetsky
Kansas Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Eddie Henderson
Kentucky Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Fran Kulas
Michigan Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Don Gemmell Recreation Director, Ted Lynch
Minnesota Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Ian Barker Ass't Director, John Curtis
Missouri Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Denny Vaninger
Nebraska Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, TBA
North Dakota Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Bill Ashby
Ohio South Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Roby Stahl
Ohio Youth Soccer Association North	Director of Coaching, Tom Turner Boys ODP, Tony Niccoli Girls ODP, Sandor Jakab
South Dakota Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Ron Theisz
Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Jim Launder

### **Region III**

Alabama Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, TBA
Arkansas State Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Julian Owen
Florida Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Mike Strickler
Georgia Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Jacob Daniel
	Ass't Director, Thomas Findlay
Louisiana Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Sam Snow
Mississippi Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Nigel Bolton
North Carolina Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Bill Furjanic
North Texas State Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Gary Williamson
Oklahoma Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Peter McGahey
South Carolina Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Van Taylor
South Texas Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Bobby Murphy
Tennessee State Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Vince Ganzberg

### **Region IV**

Alaska Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Colin Barton
	Director of Recreation, Sheila Smith
Arizona Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Mark Lowe
California Youth Soccer Association North	Director of Coaching, Karl Dewazien
	Coaching Education, Hervi Rualo
California Youth Soccer Association South	Director of Coaching, Steve Hoffman
	Technical Director, Steve Sampson
Colorado Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Nate Shotts
Hawaii Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, George Kuntz
Idaho Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Tom Fleck
Montana Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Ric Plante
United States Youth Soccer Ass'n Nevada	Director of Coaching, Marc Hechter
	Director of Coaching, Steve Asher
New Mexico Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Bob Bigney
Oregon State Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Jimmy Conway
	Recreation Director, Mike Smith
Utah Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, Greg Maas
Washington Youth Soccer Association	Director Of Coaching, Dave Schumacher
Wyoming Youth Soccer Association	Director of Coaching, TBA

### **Rationale for Change**

The playing of appropriate soccer games for children under the age of thirteen has become the linchpin issue for future player and coach initiatives in the United States. Soccer games smaller than 11v11 provide many critical advantages to players, including the ability to repeatedly contact the ball and the ability to repeatedly experience basic tactical problems. In terms of player development, this ability to actively participate is directly related to fun and enjoyment, and to the issues surrounding quality of play and retention. In addition, players under eleven are routinely structured into formal positions at ages when their spatial awareness and technical range do not lend themselves to a practical understanding of large group tactics.

It is also the case that the vast majority of youth coaches do not have a soccer background, yet are faced with, arguably, the most critical period of player development. Coaching games that demand a midfield organization (above 6v6) are too complicated for these coaches and often focus instruction on structural issues rather than individual technical and small-group tactical issues.

### **Proposal**

The US Youth Soccer National Directors of Coaching endorse the following structure of play for youth soccer games in the United States and seek the support of each region in implementing this plan on a nationwide basis.

- We believe that players under the age of six (U-6) should play games of no more than 3v3, with no goalkeepers. The recommended field size is 30 yards x 20 yards.
- We believe that players under the age of eight (U-7 and U-8) should play games of no more than 4v4, with no goalkeepers. The recommended field size is 40 yards by 30 yards.
- We believe that players under the age of ten (U-9 and U-10) should play games of no more than 6v6, including goalkeepers. The recommended field size is between 45-50 yards in length and between 35-40 yards in width.
- We believe that players under the age of twelve (U-11 and U-12) should play games of no more than 8v8, including goalkeepers. The recommended field size is between 80-90 yards in length and between 45-50 yards in width.
- We believe that players older than twelve (U-13 and above) should play 11v11. The recommended minimum field size is 110 yards x 65 yards.

**NATIONAL AGREEMENT WAS AGREED IN  
PRINCIPLE DURING THE 2002 US YOUTH  
WORKSHOP IN ATLANTA, GA.**